



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Amendment

LCO No. 5881

Offered by:

REP. POWERS, 151st Dist.

REP. FARR, 19th Dist.

REP. GIBBONS, 150th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6751

File No. 464

Cal. No. 333

"AN ACT CONCERNING MASTERY TEST EXEMPTIONS."

1 After line 15 insert the following and renumber the remaining
2 section accordingly:

3 "Sec. 2. Section 10-17f of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

5 (a) Annually, the board of education for each local and regional
6 school district shall ascertain, in accordance with regulations adopted
7 by the State Board of Education, the eligible students in such school
8 district and shall classify such students according to their dominant
9 language.

10 (b) Whenever it is ascertained that there are in any public school
11 within a local or regional school district twenty or more eligible
12 students classified as dominant in any one language other than
13 English, the board of education of such district shall provide a

14 program of bilingual education for such eligible students for the school
15 year next following, except that a board of education may provide an
16 English as a second language program in place of a program of
17 bilingual education if the town in which the school district is located
18 has a total population, as defined in section 10-261, of at least fifty
19 thousand and the number of resident students, as defined in section
20 10-262f, of such town is at least eight thousand. Eligible students shall
21 be placed in [such] a program of bilingual education in accordance
22 with subsection (e) of this section.

23 (c) On or before July 1, 2000, the State Board of Education, within
24 available appropriations, shall develop a state English mastery
25 standard to assess the linguistic and academic progress of students in
26 programs of bilingual education. On and after September 1, 2000, each
27 local and regional board of education shall assess, annually, the
28 progress made by each student toward meeting the state standard. If a
29 student is not making sufficient progress toward meeting the state
30 standard based on the assessment, the local or regional board of
31 education shall provide language support services to the student in
32 consultation with the parent or guardian of the student to allow the
33 student to meet the state standard. Such services may include, but
34 need not be limited to, summer school, after-school assistance and
35 tutoring. If a student meets the state standard based on the assessment,
36 the student shall leave the program. Each local and regional board of
37 education shall document on a student's permanent record the date the
38 student begins in a program of bilingual education and the date and
39 results of the assessments required pursuant to this subsection.

40 (d) Each local and regional board of education shall limit the time
41 an eligible student spends in a program of bilingual education to thirty
42 months, whether or not such months are consecutive, except that
43 summer school and two-way language programs pursuant to
44 subsection (i) of this section shall not be counted. If an eligible student
45 does not meet the English mastery standard at the end of thirty
46 months, the local or regional board of education shall provide
47 language transition support services to such student. Such services

48 may include, but need not be limited to, English as a second language
49 programs, sheltered English programs, English immersion programs,
50 tutoring and homework assistance. Families may also receive guidance
51 from school professionals to help their children make progress in their
52 native language. If an eligible student enrolls in a secondary school
53 when the student has fewer than thirty months remaining before
54 graduation, the local or regional board of education shall assign the
55 student to an English as a second language program and may provide
56 intensive services to the student to enable the student to speak, write
57 and comprehend English by the time the student graduates and to
58 meet the course requirements for graduation.

59 (e) Each local and regional board of education shall hold a meeting
60 with the parents and legal guardians of eligible students to explain the
61 benefits of the language program options available in the school
62 district, including an English language immersion program. The
63 parents and legal guardians may bring an interpreter or an advisor to
64 the meeting. If the local or regional board of education provides a
65 program of bilingual education pursuant to subsection (b) of this
66 section in the school an eligible student attends or will attend and the
67 parent or legal guardian of [an eligible] such student opts to have such
68 student placed in [a program of bilingual education] such program, the
69 local or regional board of education shall place the [child] student in
70 such program.

71 (f) The board of education for each local and regional school district
72 which [is required to provide] provides a program of bilingual
73 education shall initially endeavor to implement the provisions of
74 subsection (b) of this section through in-service training for existing
75 certified professional employees, and thereafter, shall give preference
76 in hiring to such certified professional employees as are required to
77 maintain the program.

78 (g) The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations, in
79 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish requirements
80 for: (1) Such programs, which may be modeled after policy established

81 by the Department of Education for bilingual education programs; (2)
82 local and regional boards of education to integrate bilingual and
83 English as a second language program faculty in all staff, planning and
84 curriculum development activities; and (3) all bilingual education
85 teachers employed by a local or regional board of education, on and
86 after July 1, 2001, to meet all certification requirements, including
87 completion of a teacher preparation program approved by the State
88 Board of Education, or to be certified through an alternate route to
89 certification program.

90 (h) Each board of education for a local and regional school district
91 which [is required to provide] provides for the first time a program of
92 bilingual education pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall
93 prepare and submit to the Commissioner of Education for review a
94 plan to implement such program, in accordance with regulations
95 adopted by the State Board of Education.

96 (i) Each local and regional board of education that [is required to
97 provide] provides a program of bilingual education pursuant to
98 subsection (b) of this section shall investigate the feasibility of
99 establishing two-way language programs starting in kindergarten.

100 Sec. 3. Section 10-17g of the general statutes is repealed and the
101 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

102 Annually, the board of education for each local and regional school
103 district that [is required to provide] provides a program of bilingual
104 education, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-17f, as amended by
105 this act, may make application to the State Board of Education and
106 shall thereafter receive a grant in an amount equal to the product
107 obtained by multiplying the total appropriation available for such
108 purpose by the ratio which the number of eligible children in the
109 school district bears to the total number of such eligible children state-
110 wide. The board of education for each local and regional school district
111 receiving funds pursuant to this section shall annually, on or before
112 September first, submit to the State Board of Education a progress

113 report which shall include (1) measures of increased educational
114 opportunities for eligible students, including language support
115 services and language transition support services provided to such
116 students, (2) program evaluation and measures of the effectiveness of
117 its bilingual education and English as a second language programs,
118 including data on students in bilingual education programs and
119 students educated exclusively in English as a second language
120 programs, and (3) certification by the board of education submitting
121 the report that any funds received pursuant to this section have been
122 used for the purposes specified. The State Board of Education shall
123 annually evaluate programs conducted pursuant to section 10-17f, as
124 amended by this act. For purposes of this section, measures of the
125 effectiveness of bilingual education and English as a second language
126 programs include state-wide mastery examination results and
127 graduation and school dropout rates."